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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

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Inspection Report

Minerals Regulatory Program

Report Date

Supervisor

Mine Name: Aragonite
Operator Name: Star Stone Quarries

Permit number: M0450031
Inspection Date: April 20, 2006
Time: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Inspector(s): Paul Baker
Other Participants: None
Mine Status: Inactive

Weather: Clear, 50's

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Revegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Inspection:

This was a routine inspection, but I also wanted to see whether the fences were being adequately maintained.

Inspection Summary:

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds
The reclamation bond for this site is \$6000.00.

2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)
There is a barbed wire fence around the shaft, and there is a sign saying, "Caution! Keep Out" (Photo 1). There is also a steel plate over the top of the shaft that appears to be welded on. I was not able to open it. Although the fence is intact, it is a high gauge wire and is loose.

This site has two large cuts (Photos 2 and 3). According to a map in the plan, the southern cut is old and is not part of the permitted area. This cut contains some old workings (Photo 8).

The cut on the north is part of the permitted area, and it contains two shafts (Photos 4 through 7). There are fences across the northern and southern ends of the cut to restrict access to the shaft areas. Although these fences are intact and are fairly secure, it would be easy to cross them.

A boulder and a fence are across the road leading from the north side of the north cut, but the fence has been cut.

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10. Revegetation

I found one or two dead Scotch thistle plants adjacent to the disturbed area.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The amount of the reclamation surety needs to be reviewed.

The fences need to be tightened and repaired.

The operator should watch for Scotch thistle plants and dig them if any are found.

Inspector's Signature  Date: 6/20/06

Directions to Site:

Take the Aragonite exit from I-80 and go south on a paved road toward the burn plant. Just before getting to the plant, turn left and follow the dirt road 2.8 miles to the mine. There is a "Y" in the road where it may be difficult to tell which is the main road. Stay left.

PBB:pb

cc: Lon Thomas, Star Stone

Attachment: Photos

ATTACHMENT

Photographs

M0450031, Aragonite Mine, Star Stone Quarries

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Photo 1. The shaft. The barbed wire is a thin gauge.



Photo 3. The south cut.



Photo 2. The north cut is in the foreground with the south cut in the background.



Photo 4. This is the southernmost of the shafts in the north cut.



Photo 5. This shows the fence on the north side of the north cut, and the holes in Photos 6 and 7 are in this shaft.



Photo 7.



Photo 6. This hole and the one in Photo 7 are toward the north side of the north cut.



Photo 8. This shows what appears to be old workings in the south cut.